

*Financial Administration Act*

First of all, there is the question of the language used by their officials. These corporations are Anglo-Saxon reserves, without any exception. Hon. members who are aware of the questions I have been asking have been able to find out what discrimination there is among these Crown corporations against the French Canadian race and the French-speaking population, since, generally, the administration of Crown corporations belongs to English-speaking people. The same situation exists in the government departments.

I would like to speak about a second point dealing with the rendering of accounts, the subject now under consideration. I challenge here any hon. member to try to find out what is going on at the Polymer Corporation, for example. It would be of no avail. I challenge any hon. member to find out what is going on at the Eldorado Mining, for example, he will be unable to do so.

Mr. Speaker, I have been working in the Parliament building for 4 years. I have been secretary to the leader of the Ralliement Cr ditiste, the hon. member for T miscamingue (Mr. Caouette), and now I am a private member but I have not yet succeeded in learning how those companies are administered. I know that legally, there is a difference between proprietary corporations, departmental corporations and agency corporations.

We are now told that the Post Office department will become a Crown corporation. This possibility is now under consideration. However, Mr. Speaker, hon. members should obtain the assurance that the same thing will not happen in the case of that future Crown Corporation because it would truly be disastrous.

Mr. Speaker, I think that this matter can give food for thought to all hon. members. I would like to encourage my colleagues from all parties to get acquainted with the financial administration of the various Crown corporations. Of course, many good things are being done at the administration level, but in general, Mr. Speaker, there is a stupid and arrogant attitude towards the Canadian people, who have the right to know how their money is spent and managed.

• (4:30 p.m.)

With regard to Crown corporations and departments in general, I would like to say that it is absolutely unacceptable that the financial administration be under the control

of English-speaking people. I do not have statistics here and even if I had any, I would keep them to myself because I think that my colleagues can realize the situation and study it by themselves if they are interested in the administration of public affairs.

However, Mr. Speaker, as a Canadian and a French Canadian, I want to object as strongly as I can to the kind of administration that prevails in Crown agencies. To me, there is pure discrimination against my French Canadian fellow citizens.

When we consider the proportion of French Canadians who hold positions with salaries of \$17,000 and over in each of the Crown corporations and in many departments in comparison with that of English-speaking Canadians, we see that French Canadians are drawers of water and will remain so for a long time still if hon. members do not wake up. I think the situation should change in 1969. I firmly hope that the next bill dealing with official languages will contain provisions in that regard.

However, I am still puzzled about a sound and fair sharing of responsibilities, at the administrative level, between French and English Canadians within crown corporations. As a typical and most scandalous example, may I mention that, of all federal agencies, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics is the most fanatically English, at the administrative level.

Mr. Speaker, this is only one example among many others, and I hope I can prove at the first opportunity that the Dominion Bureau of Statistics and the Supreme Court—both are very similar in this regard—are the two most anti-French institutions that exist. They would be more appropriate in England or elsewhere than in Canada. We are fed up with an administration that does not reflect a true image of Canada.

Mr. Speaker, in conclusion, I should like to comment briefly on the auditing of the books of crown corporations and government departments. Most of the former have their books audited by private firms, at a very high cost, while the work could be done by the Auditor General of Canada. In every one of his reports since 1966, he has offered to audit the books of departments and crown corporations. But he is only allowed to audit those of a few departments and of a few crown corporations, and prevented to do the rest.

Mr. Speaker, I should like to congratulate the group of workers and the civil servants